

Serial No. 09/920973

Petrocelli

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 31 remain in the application.

Claims 14, 15 and 16 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, while independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to more clearly define the novel features of applicant's invention. For the reasons discussed below, claims 1 and 17 are thought to patentably define over the cited Sitka reference, and hence favorable reconsideration of these claims, as amended, is thought to be in order.

As will be noted, the method of amended claim 1 now includes the steps of accessing a patient's medical data from a plurality of external sources and then segmenting the data into a plurality of information groups. The information groups are then stored onto an archival storage media with each group having an identification that is unique from that of any other information groups stored within said archival storage media and all other archival storage media from the same or different archive systems. This enables the information groups to be independently accessed, within or without the archive system in which they were created. The Sitka reference, as noted by the Examiner, does not disclose the type of unique identification that constitutes an essential element of applicant's invention, nor would it be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize such a unique and universal identification means. The Examiner's attention is specifically directed to the portion of the specification of the instant application starting at page 11, line 21, and continuing through page 12, line 8, wherein there is a detailed disclosure and basis for the amended language in claim 1. Note also applicant's specification at page 13, lines 2 through 8. Sitka's identification of an information group by use of a patient's name, a physician's name, personal information, etc., is a far cry from the universally unique identification utilized by applicant. For example, in Sitka,

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different information groups may involve the same patient and/or doctor, and hence any one information group could not be accessed because of the fact that a number of the groups might have the same identification. Also, in many cases more than one person may exist having the same name, as a result of which such an identification would not be truly unique. Applicant's information group identifier, on the other hand, is truly universally unique as described in the aforesaid portion of applicant's specification on pages 11 and 12. As a result, both the data groups and individual archive media pieces are distinguished from any other data groups or archive media pieces stored within said archive. Further, as a result of the universally unique identifiers, said data groups and individual media pieces are also distinguishable from all other data groups and archival storage media from different archive systems. This allows data groups and medium to be independently accessed, within or without the archive system in which they were created. This also allows the data groups and media to be aggregated from multiple sources into a single source. Applicant's universally unique identifiers also allow aggregation of multiple data sources into a single source, such as combining separate archives from Hospital A and Hospital B into a single archive with each data group and each storage medium remaining universally uniquely identifiable. The Sitka reference neither discloses nor suggests use of such a universally unique identifier, nor is there any valid basis on which it could be legitimately maintained that to so modify Sitka would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

For the above reasons, claim 1, as amended, is thought to patentably define over Sitka, and the allowance of claim 1 is therefore thought to be in order. The other independent claim, namely, claim 17, which covers applicant's data archiving

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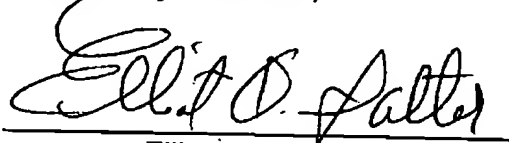
system, has also been amended much in the manner that claim 1 has been amended, and hence claim 17 is also thought to be allowable for the reasons recited. The remaining claims in the application are all dependent on claim 1 or claim 17 and therefore are also allowable, at the very least for the same reasons as discussed in connection with claims 1 and 17.

For all of the above reasons, the application is now thought to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

A new power of attorney is submitted herewith.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,



Elliot A. Salter  
Reg. No. 17,486

SALTER & MICHAELSON  
321 South Main Street  
Providence RI 02903  
Tel : 401.421.3141  
Fax : 401.861.1953  
email : esalter@saltermichaelson.com